

Testimony of Marie Montpetit, Owner, Massack Memorial Home

IN OPPOSITION TO

**Section 11 of HB 5052- AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS.**

Human Services Committee Public Hearing, February 20, 2014

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Marie Montpetit and I am the owner of Massack Memorial Home.

I am an active member of Connecticut Association of Residential Care Homes (CARCH) and we take care of a mentally ill, physically ill, and aging population. These individuals cannot function independently for a variety of reasons. We care for a community that suffers from illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, aneurisms, blindness, arthritis, diabetes, heart transplant and other heart and lung diseases. We also care for those individuals who are mentally incapacitated suffering from severe issues such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

Please take a moment to think about the type of person we take care of for our community. We are highly regulated by the State of Connecticut with regards to both the health and safety of our homes and with our finances. Our services are provided at an extremely low cost to the state.

Costs have risen in our home at a significant rate. The cost of oil, snow removal, food, electricity, insurance and taxes consistently rise. Staff goes without cost of living raises yet has much added work and responsibility. I myself, as the owner of the home, only receive a minimum wage of \$9.25 per hour.

After a flat rate for several years we received a \$1.39 raise per resident per day. It would be extremely damaging to lose this small increase and to not receive the cost of care for these extremely needy people.

Please uncap the Residential Care Home rate as many of us are already at the brink of financial collapse. Without homes like ours, the State would be forced to pay significantly more money to provide care for our residents.